

Melissa Weipert

HB 4674

Health Policy
10/25/17

From: Nancy Mahlow <nmahlow2012@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, October 20, 2017 3:07 PM
To: Melissa Weipert
Subject: Long-term Care

I understand the above subject is scheduled for discussion on Wednesday, October 25, 2017. Unfortunately I cannot attend do to work but would like to express my concerns.

My mother recently passed away in a nursing home on September 27, 2017, from "blunt force trauma to the head." She had not walked in five years, had nothing to identify that she was a "fall risk" and was actually told because she couldn't walk the nursing home didn't see the reason for any extra precaution, I did not know I had to "request" from her doctor that I wanted these items installed. What was shocking is she was alert when I arrived at the hospital, talking to me but died shortly after from the head injuries . Here are my concerns:

Nursing homes are understaffed and under paid which puts our seniors at risk for falls and injuries and could relate to death. Watching residents fall is a very scary feeling and the staff cannot be in multiple places at a time. They need alarms that will alert them a patient is trying to get out of a chair or bed, rails are needed to help keep the resident in bed or at least give them something to help support them when trying to get out of bed.

1. Taking away bed rails and alarms is a dangerous decision for our seniors.
2. Finding funding so more staff can be hired or to increase the pay.

These employees are literally holding the lives of these residents in the hands and they can not provide the proper care that is needed.

I ask that the state PLEASE reinstate the use of bed rails and alarms that will add an extra level of safety. Thank you for considering my request.

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